A CULTURE STUDY OF CAULACANTHUS USTULATUS (CAULACANTHACEAE, GIGARTINALES, RHODOPHYTA) FROM EUROPE AND ASIA.

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ABSTRACT — Caulocanthus ustudiates (Turner) Kitzings was collected near Ressoff on the north coost of western Britaruay and isolated into unsiagle culture. The apposie is a recent introduction in his cross of western Britaruay and isolated into unsiagle culture. The apposie is a recent introduction in his area, and the nearest known locality before 1986 was Biarritz. Two other Caulocanthus isolates were studied in culture and compared with the Rossoff isolate. One came from Gibraltar, not far from the type locality (Catize), and the other was from Qingdao, China, where the alga is passing under the name C. okamurave Yamada. The three isolates were morphologically similar, and thus supporting the recent proposal of reducing C. okamurave to synonymy with C. astudiatus. The isolate from China remained vegetative inculture, while the European isolates produced tetrasporanga, Germination of tetraspores and mature male and female plants are described for the Rossoff isolate. Only one carriposporophyte was produced, and the germination of carpospores is described. Vegetative growth was measured on a temperature gradient growth table. Very little growth took place at 6° C. Growth was best at ca. 17° C, and sightly reduced at 13° C and 26° C. C

RESUMÉ — Cudacauthus ustudatus (Tumer) Kützing a été récolté pixés de Roscoff, sur la côte nord de Bretagne occidentale et conservé en culture uniaglac L'éspace, d'introduction recent dans celte région, n'était, jusqu'en 1986, pas signalés au nord de Biarritz. Deux autres souches de Caulacauthus on été foibles en culture et compares à celles de Roscooff, l'une de Giristalta prés de la localité-type (Cadix), l'autre de Çingdan en Chine. Les trois isolats sont morphologiquement identiques, y compris le spécimen chairos habituellement désigné sous le nomé de C. demurac. Ceis augres la possible synonymie de C. usuldatus et C. okamurac, hypothèse déjà retenue par certains auteurs. La souche chinoise est demueure végétative en culture tands que les deux souches europénens on produit des la souche de Roscoff. Une et al carbon de l'active par certains auteurs. La souche chinoise est demouré végétative par certains paur la souche de Roscoff. Une et carposporopity et de to obtenu. Le développement des carposporopity et de dévotte. Le developpement des carposporopity et de dévotte. Le developpement des carposporopity et de dévotte. Le david de consissance en fonction de la température a été étudic ; il est faible à 6° C, Il est optimum à 1° C, légérment réduit à 1° C et à 2° C.

KEY WORDS: red algae, Caulacanthus, Rhodophyta, culture, reproduction, distribution

INTRODUCTION

The first find of the small red alga Caulacanthus ustulatus (Turner) Kützing on the north coast of western France was recently reported by Rio & Cabioch (1988). The alga was growing intertidally in the vicinity of oyster beds near Carantee. This part of the

Brittany coast is probably the most thoroughly investigated with respect to littoral biota as a result of the activities at the Station Biologique, Roscoff, Hence, it is unlikely that the alga has previously been overlooked. The closest site where Caulacanthus ustulatus has been collected is Biarritz, in the Bay of Biscard, about 600 km further south. It his was the been collected is Biarritz, in the Bay of Biscard, about 600 km further south. This was the species' known northern limit on the Atlantic coast before 1986. The recent find extenda sites range so far northwards that it suggests that it may have been introduced, rather than bate dispersed northwards along the Atlantic coast of France. It is possible that oysters have some cated as the dispersal agent and that the origing of the alga was either southern France or some other remote locality. There has been a marked increase in the number of introduced, rather alphaness species in European waters since the 1960s, mainly due to human activities such as aquaculture and shipping (Ribera & Boudoursein, 1995). One example is Lomouterior in the handardnessity of Lananese species of Lananese cost of Lananese cost of Lananese cost of Lananese species of Lan

was recently reported from the Roscoff area by Cabioch & Magne (1987).

C. ustulatus was originally described by Turner (1809) on the basis of specimens collected by Clemente at Cadiz, in southern Spain, and lectotypified by Searles (1968). The alga has been reported from warm temperate and tropical West Africa (Lawson & John, 1982; Wynne, 1986a), and along European Atlantic coast from southern Spain (Seoane-Camba, 1965), to Portugal (Ardré, 1970), north Spain (Casares, 1989; Perez-Cirera, 1975) and Biarritz (Feldmann & Hamel, 1937). It is present on the Atlantic islands of Madeira (Levring, 1974), the Azores (Schmidt, 1931; South & Tittley, 1986; Neto, pers, comm.) and the Capary Islands (Bargesen, 1927, Kristiansen et al., 1993), but has not been found in the western Atlantic (Wynne, 1986b). In the Mediterranean Sea there are many records under the name C. ustulatus, but as suggested by Augier & Boudouresque (1971), many of these may be based on misidentification of the very similar alga Feldmannophycus rayssiae (Feldmann & Feldmann) Augier & Boudouresque, In the northeast Pacific, Dawson (1961) first reported the alga from Baja California, Mexico, and it has later been recorded as common and widespread in Washington and British Columbia (Norris & Wynne, 1968; Scagel, 1973; Gabrielson & Scagel, 1989), but apparently nowhere in between. In the Indian Ocean and east Pacific Ocean the situation is complicated by the fact that similar species have been described under various names. On the basis of morphological and anatomical comparisons of type material with field and cultured specimens, West & Calumpong (1990) concluded that isolates from the Philippines, North Queensland, Australia (as C. indicus Weber-van Bosse) and Korca (identified as C. okumurae Yamada, 1933) belonged to one and the same species. The Philippine isolate and the Australian isolate were interfertile, whereas the Korean isolate remained vegetative in culture. West & Calumpong (1990) reduced these taxa to synonymy with C. ustulatus.

One discrepancy between the Japanese taxon C. okamurae and C. usulatus from Europe lies in the pattern of spore development. In C. okamurae, Kamura (1963) described a pattern of development that he termed "mnnediate gelidial type", and which was unlike that reported by Feldmann (1938) for tetraspores of C. usulatus collected heart Alger in Algeria. No culture study of C. usulatus from European waters has been undertaken. He life history wha not been demonstrated and spermatanigal structures not.

observed

In this study, cultured isolates of C usrulatus from Roscoff and from Qingdao, China (identified as C. okamuruc, according to Tseng, 1983) were compared in an attempt to clarify the relationships between the entity of recent origin in the Roscoff area and the alga from Asia. In addition, an isolate from Gibraltar (ca. 100 km east of the type locality Cádziy was included in the study.

Source . MNHN. Paris

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Field observations were made during a research visit to the Station biologique. Roscoff, in September-November 1993, and the alga was isolated into culture. In June 1994, Il collected Caulacanthus at Oingdao, China, during the fifth International Phycological Congress. The only species of Caulacanthus reported from China and Korea is C. okamurae according to Tseng (1983) and Lee & Kang (1986), respectively. The alga was transported live to the laboratory in Oslo, Norway, and isolated into unialgal culture. In March 1996. C. ustulatus was isolated from Gibraltar and unialgal cultures were established. In addition living material was received from the Azores, kindly provided by Ana Isabel Neto, but attempts to grow this isolate were unsuccessful. All specimens were found growing in the littoral zone where the alga forms a short turf (1-3 cm) usually attached to rocks and shells. The alga is inconspicuous, but easily recognized by the attenuated. recurved to spine-like axes, each terminated by an obliquely dividing apical cell. Only vegetative specimens were recorded in field collections, and the initial unialgal cultures were established from apical cuttings. Later, tetrasporangia were produced in culture in the isolates from Roscoff and Gibraltar, whereas the isolate from China has remained vegetative. Stock cultures were kept at 12° C and 17° C. They received a light quantity of ca. 30 umol photons m⁻² s⁻¹ under a 16:8 light:dark regime. The culture medium was IMR/2 (Eppley et al., 1967) adjusted to a salinity of 30 psu. Growth responses at various temperatures were determined for the Roscoff isolate by incubating apical cuttings (1.5 mm) at four temperatures ± 1° C (6.3° C; 13.4° C; 17.1° C; 25.6° C) on a temperature gradient growth table. Two Petri dishes, each containing 5 apices, were placed at each temperature and under the same light regime as above. The medium was replenished weekly and individual lengths were measured. The growth experiment was terminated after 7 weeks and results were documented photographically.

RESULTS

Vegetative morphology

The three isolates were morphologically similar and in accordance with earlier descriptions of the species. The isolate from Gibraltar was examined particularly carefully, in view of the possibility of confusion with the Mediterranean species Feldmannophycus raysside. Figure 1 is a cross-section of this isolate showing two periaxial cells arising from the central axial cell. In Fig. 2, the row of axial cells is seen in a partial longitudinal section. Axial cells are usually 4-6 times longer than broad (cs. 15 µm in diameter; This distinguishes the species from Feldmannophycus rayssiae, in which the axial cells are two times longer than broad, and up to 60-70 µm in diameter (Feldmann 1960). Another distinguishing feature according to Feldmann & Feldmann (1960) and Augier & Boudourseque (1971) is that, in Frayssiae, each axial cell only forms one periaxial cell.

In all isolates of *C. ustulatus*, branches became attached to the substratum by elongation and division of subcortical cells which formed characteristic crumpent attachment pads (Fig. 3). Each erect branch terminated in a distinctive obliquely dividing apical cell.

Source: MNHN, Pan

Reproductive structures

In both the European isolates, tetrasporangia were produced after about three months in culture at 17° C but not at 12° C, whereas the isolate from China has remained vegetative despite attempts to induce the formation of reproductive structures by varying the photoperiod, light intensity, temperature, etc. It is therefore not known whether this isolate is a tetra-sporopolyste or a gametophyte. Tetrasporangia are formed in the cortical layer where there are deeply staining sporangial initial cells (Fig. 4). Mature sporangia responsible are sporangia are sp

zonately divided and measure 30 x 55 um.

Spermatangia form superficial sori near the branch tips (Fig. 7), where cortical cells cut off 2-3 spermatangial mother cells which in turn cut off spermatangia (Fig. 6). Fertile female plants bear carpogonial branches near branch tips where the supporting cells are intercalary cells close to the axial filament. The carpogonial branches are three-celled and straight (Fig. 9), with the trichogynes penetrating the cortical layer to the surface of the thallus Details of post-fertilization processes were not studied. Carposporophyte development was seen in only one culture (Roscoff isolate) of mixed male and female plants, and resulted in only one mature cystocarp. Carpospores were released and isolated, but these have not yet produced mature tetrasporophytes. Attempts to cross the Roscoff and Gibraltar isolates have been initiated, but have not so far resulted in carposporophyte development, citier in the self-crosses or in the out-crosses. Apparently, fertilization and carposporophyte development do not easily occur in culture (as in the field), and may require a longer period of time than 4 months.

Germination of spores

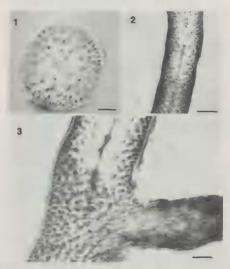
Tetraspores often germinated on the surface of the thallus. They are variable in size, but measure roughly 25 µm in diameter. A group of germinating tetraspores is shown in Fig. 11. The first division splits the spore into two unequal daughter cells, the smaller of which often gives rise to a rhivoid while the other cell continues to divide into smaller cells within the original spore. There are frequently two rhizoids and two groups of upper cells resulting from an initial partitioning into four cells, two basel cells forming thizoids and two upper cells that continue to divide and give rise to two more or less separated groups.

Carpospores were formed only once during this study (Roscoff isolate). A group of germinating carpospores is shown in Fig. 10. Carpospores are variable in size. a. 30 µm in diameter which is slightly larger than tetraspores. Encropsore germination pattern seems to differ somewhat from that of tetraspores. In carposporelings, rhizoids were rarely formed and the germlings appear like a single group of cells forming a disc that later gives

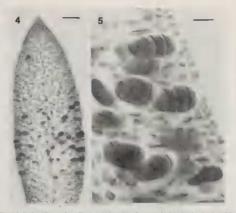
rise to an upright thallus.

Growth at various temperatures

From Fig. 12 it is seen that very little growth took place at the lowest temperature tested ca. 6° C and best growth occurred at ca. 17° C and somewhat reduced at 13° C and 26° C.



Figs 1-3. Caulacanthus ustulatus. Fig. 1. Cross-section of young branch showing axial cell with pit-connections to two periaxial cells (Gibraltur isolate). Scale bar = 30 µm. Fig. 2. Axis in surface view and partial longitudinal section to show cortex and axial filament (Gibraltar isolate). Scale bar = 50 µm. Fig. 3. Part of a branch forming attachment pad (Qingdao isolate). Scale bar = 100 µm.



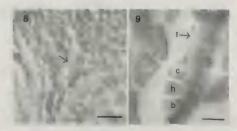
Figs 4-5. Caulacanthus ustulatus. Fig. 4. Apical portion of tetrasporic plant showing deeply staining sporangial initials (Gibraltar isolate), Scale bar = 100 µm. Fig. 5. Section of thallus with mature, zonately divided tetrasporangia (Roscoff isolate). Scale ber = 50 µm.

DISCUSSION

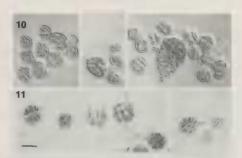
Caulacanthus ustulatus was collected for the first time on the north coast of western Brittany in December 1986 (Rio & Cabioch, 1988). This find represented a substantial change in the known northern limit of the species on the European Atlantic coast. During field work in the vicinity of Roscoff in September-November 1993, the alga was found to be relatively common in many localities, but always in a vegetative state. Rio & Cabioch (1988) suggested that vegetative reproduction was its only means of propagation in this area. Reproductive specimens, especially fertile gametophytes, seem to be very rare in this species and male plants were undescribed from European coast before this study. Bornet & Thuret (1876) were the first to describe the carpogonial branch and some of the post-fertilization stages in material from Biarritz. Searles (1968), who studied the senus in detail, concluded that at least two other Atlantic sencies were mobable synonyms.



Figs 6-7. Caulacanthus ustudatus (Roscoff isolate). Fig. 6. Transverse section of thallus showing part of spermatangial sorus. Scale bar = 10 µm. Fig. 7. Branch tip of male plant with extensive spermatangial sorus Scale bar = 100 µm.



Figs 8-9. Caulacanthus ustulatus (Roscoff isolate). Fig. 8. Longitudinal section of female branch bearing carpogonial filaments (arrow). Fig. 9. Detail of 3-celled, straight carpogonial filament. b. basal cell: h. hypogynous cell: c. carpogonium with trichocyne (1). Seale bar = 10 µm.



Figs 10-11. Caulacanthus ustulatus (Roscoff isolate). Sporelings developed at 17° C. Fig. 10. Germinating carpospores, rhizoids are rarely formed. Fig. 11. Germinating tetraspores. Note formation of rhizoids. Scale bar = 25 um.



Fig. 12. Caulacanthus ustulatus (Roscoff isolate). Growth yield after 50 days in culture at various temperatures and given 30 μ mol photons m⁻² s⁻¹ under a 16:8 light;dark regime.

with C. ustulatus: C. rigulas Kützing, based on material from Senegal, and C. divaricatus (Suhr) Papenfuss from South Africa. Searles (1968) provided detailed descriptions of vegetative and reproductive morphology, including maie structures in specimens from South Africa. The present study fully corroborates the descriptions provided by Searles (1968).

As to Caulacauthus from the Pacific, Searles (1968) included C. spinellus (Hocker of Harvey) Kützing from New Zealand in C. ustudants. Caulacauthus indicus Webervan Bosse and C. okamurae were synonymized with C. ustulatus by West & Calumpong (1990) on the basis of morphological and anatomical comparisons of type material with field and cultured specimens. Unfortunately, they provided no illustrations of the algae examined. These authors successfully crossed an isolate from the Philippines (referred to C. indicus) with an isolate from North Queensland, Australia (as C. okamurae), An isolate from Korea (as C. okamurae) was also used, but this remained vegetative in culture, as did the isolate from China used in the present study. In the lates revision of the check-list of marine algae of Japan (Yoshida et al., 1995), C. okamurae is reduced to synonymy with C. visitative.

The claim by Kamura (1963) that the pattern of tetraspore germination in C. okamurae differs from that reported for C. ustulatus by Feldmann (1938) was examined. There can be no doubt that the illustrations in Kamura (1963) are in good accordance with observations of tetraspore germination in the Roscoff isolate. The formation of one or two rhizoids at an early stage, and the frequent division of germlings into two cell groups were typical features. However, the interpretation of this pattern by Kamura (1963) as an "Immediate gelidial type" is misleading, since the characteristic evacuation of the original spore found in the Gelidiales does not occur in Caulacanthus. The carpospores seem to to have a slightly different mode of development. Rhizoids are rare and division into two distinct cell groups was never seen. Carposporelings were more disc-like than tetrasporelings. The illustrations by Feldmann (1938) show a germination pattern similar to the Dumontia type, in which the spore is divided into two more or less equal halves by a wall perpendicular to the substratum. Further divisions take place within the original spore wall to form a hemispherical mass of small cells. The most important difference between spore germination as described by Feldmann (1938) and that reported here is that rhizoids apparently did not bud off in the sporelings studied by Feldmann (1938). This difference is of less importance than the more fundamental difference between the gelidialean type and that described for Caulacanthus. Furthermore, there is a possibility that the alga studied by Feldmann (1938) belonged to Feldmannophycus rayssiae, since Perret-Boudouresque & Séridi (1989) excluded records of C. ustulatus from the Algerian flora. Further studies of F. rayssiae are required.

In conclusion, the present study supports earlier suggestions that C ustudatus is to be considered as a species of cosmopolitan distribution in warm temperate and tropical waters. Its poor growth at 6°C suggests that its northern growth limit lies in northern France and southern England in the Atlantic and in British Columbia on the north-east Pacific coast. The apparent low frequency of sexual reproduction suggests effective vegetative propagation, probably by fragmentation and reattachment. Since Caudacanthus ustudatus from southern Europe is morphologically indistinguishable from C ustudancy from Japan and China, the origin of the Roscoff isolate cannot be determined. Molecular genetic methods may help to resolve the problem. Such investigations are now under way, and a crossability test should be undertaken when fertile gametophytes of both the Pacific and the Atlantic isolates become available.

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